



SENATOR

**Paull Shin**

E-Newsletter - 21st District, Edmonds

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**21st Legislative District**

**April 8, 2009**

Dear Neighbors,

Last week was a big week in Olympia. The much anticipated Senate and House operating and capital budget proposals were released. The week before, the transportation budget was released. I believe it is important to understand the difference between these biennial budgets.

The operating budget pays for the day-to-day operations of state government such as education, healthcare, corrections, and the list goes on. As I have mentioned many times this session, the proposed cuts are devastating for me to make and for those potentially affected to hear. For more detailed information click [here](#).

The state capital, or construction, budget uses mostly construction bonds instead of cash that make up a legally separate budget from the state operating budget. The capital budget is a long term investment strategy that the state uses to construct and preserve public facilities — everything from water systems to schools and community centers. The Senate capital budget proposal offers our community some great construction projects which will help to alleviate some of the cuts made in the operating budget. It is important to recognize these projects were picked because they are ready to start and will help create local jobs.

The state transportation budget pays for public transit and road maintenance.

There are only three weeks left in this legislative session, and we are moving quickly toward exclusive floor action. The budget proposals will dominate discussions as both chambers try to reach agreements on the final operating, transportation and capital budgets.

Monday, April 6 was the last day fiscal committees can pass bills from the House. April 17 is the last day lawmakers can consider House bills, with certain exceptions.

I look forward to lively, but civil debate as we make some very difficult decisions and am confident we'll be able to reach agreement with the House and with Gov. Gregoire between now and the end of session on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

As always, I welcome your ideas and comments.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paull Shin".

Sen. Paull H. Shin

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## **Capital budget — lean and focused**

The 2009 – 2011 capital budget, released last Wednesday, is a triumph of ingenuity in difficult times. At \$3.3 billion, it's 29 percent smaller than the 2007 – 2009 budget and nearly \$700 million less than what Gov. Gregoire proposed months ago before revenues fell lower, but we managed to cover our most vital core needs while putting more Washingtonians to work and supporting the local economy.

This capital budget is smaller for two reasons — our loss of revenue in the recession, and because we transfer \$743 million in cash accounts to cover basic needs in health and public safety in the operating budget. Without that transfer, we would have had to cut the operating budget by the equivalent of the entire Basic Health Program — on top of all our other cuts.

Some great examples proposed local projects are:

- \$1 million is dedicated to buy a portion of Japanese Gulch which would serve the region as a wonderful open space. This large swath of woods and wetlands in Mukilteo and Everett covers roughly 108 acres. The state hopes to partner with the City of Mukilteo secure the entire greenbelt.
- \$5 million is dedicated to the Edmonds Community College Allied Health and Construction Industry building which would include space for nursing labs, pharmacy, construction trade and general purpose classrooms. The Allied Health program is currently located in a portable buildings off the main campus designated for demolition due to deterioration. A new facility would encourage the anticipated 40 percent growth for this high demand program and give local students the education they need for future jobs.
- \$1 million is dedicated for playfields at the former Woodway High School which would renovate the field surfaces and allow community groups to take full advantage of this precious resource. I have been working to secure upgrades to the ballfields for many years.

## **Transportation budget — creating local jobs and improving facilitation of commerce**

The Senate proposed a [transportation budget](#) that provides \$4.3 billion in funding for over 400 projects all over the state using revenue sources that are kept separate from the operating and capital (non-transportation construction) budgets. Funded primarily with our state's gas taxes, these funds are constitutionally dedicated to building, maintaining and operating our state highway system — including the marine highways serviced by Washington State Ferries.

Transportation revenue and investment packages authorized by the Legislature in 2003 and 2005 — and endorsed by citizens via the initiative process — are peaking at the very time when public investment in infrastructure is needed to bolster the sagging economy, and our proposed transportation budget takes advantage of this unique opportunity to help jump start the economy and create jobs.

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